

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8 and 27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 7 are amended, claims 1-3, 10 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and claim 27 is added. No new matter is added.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In particular, the feature of the "height of the adhesive over the step portion," as recited in claims 4 and 7. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the specification, on page 11 to include the feature that the thin layer of the adhesive in the peripheral region is less than the height of the microlenses. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter "APA"), shown in Fig. 11 in view of Ray et al. (hereinafter "Ray"), U.S. Patent No. 5,701,008. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-3, 10 and 11 have been canceled by this Amendment, which were directed to an electro-optical device. However, the rejection based on APA in view of Ray for claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action alleges, on page 4, that "the method of manufacturing the device is merely a list of forming each component and each component must be formed to make the device, the method of manufacturing would be inherent to the device." However, it is respectfully submitted that the method of manufacturing the electro-optical device would not be inherent to the device as claims 4 and 7 claim that the curing step is performed by emitting light to the sealing material through the step portion. Because the step in the step portion is

made from the same material as the lens array substrate, the emitted light is transmitted effectively through the step portion without loss so that the sealing material is reliably cured.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the method steps are not inherent to the components of the device.

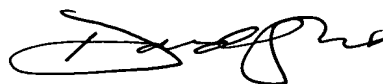
For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that APA and Ray, individually or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 4 and 7. Claims 5 and 8, which depend from the independent claims are likewise distinguished over the applied arts for at least the reasons discussed, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:DJC/djb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: April 22, 2004

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